



# Relationships at the Center

*Blue Ribbon Schools & Beyond*

Friday, November 5, 2021

**Sadiq Ali**

**Pamela Civins**



Two Black women are sitting on a light-colored concrete ledge, facing each other and smiling. The woman on the left has long black braids and is wearing a light pink t-shirt and blue jeans with a small tear at the knee. The woman on the right has short curly hair and is wearing a red t-shirt and blue jeans with a tear at the knee. The background is a vibrant teal color with a pattern of overlapping geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The word "Welcome!" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Welcome!



# Your Presenters



Pamela Civins  
Consultant  
MENTOR National



Sadiq Ali  
Executive Director  
MENTOR Maryland | DC

# AGENDA

- I. Who is MENTOR?
- II. What are Relationship-centered Schools?
- III. Small group work: Sharing relationship-rich practices, programs or policies
- IV. Video: The Power of Relationships in Schools
- V. What is a Mentoring Mindset?
- VI. Activity: Webs of Support
- VII. Tools
- VIII. Examples of Relationship-centered Schools work
- IX. Wrap Up



# Icebreaker

Take a moment to meet your  
colleagues

With each person you speak  
to, find something you both  
have in common outside of  
work







# Who We Are



**MENTOR**

MARYLAND | DC



**MENTOR**

# MENTOR: Vision & Mission



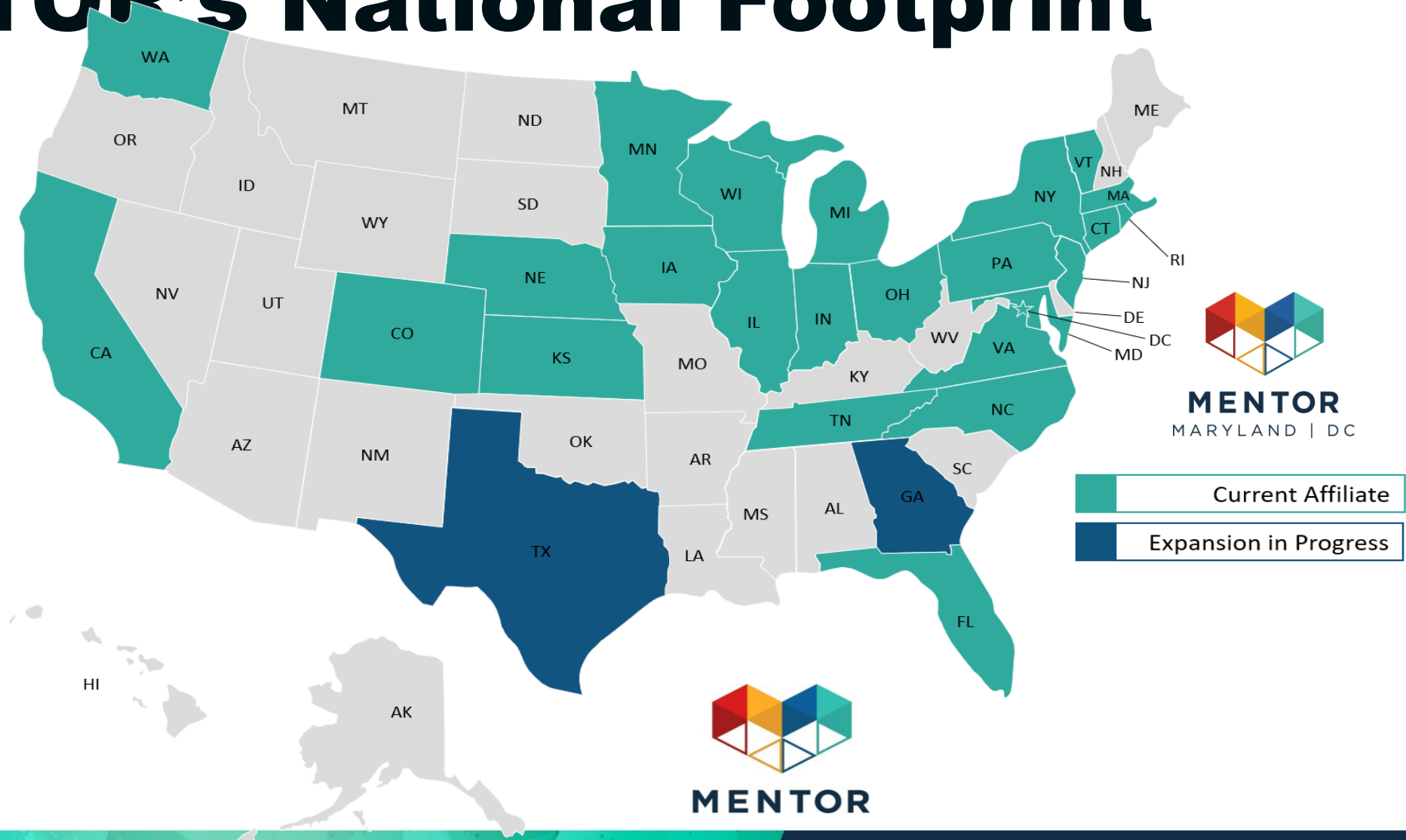
## ***Vision***

Every young person has the supportive relationships they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive and engaged adults.

## ***Mission***

MENTOR's mission is to fuel the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships for America's young people and to close the mentoring gap for the one in three young people growing up without this critical support.

# MENTOR's National Footprint





# THE GREATEST NEED

MENTOR is focused on connecting mentors to the **9 million young people** who face multiple risk factors, leaving them prone to falling off track.



# How does mentoring help?



MENTOR

## WITH A MENTOR, AT-RISK YOUTH ARE:



**52%**

less likely than their peers to skip a day of school



**55%**

more likely be enrolled in college



**46%**

less likely than their peers to start using drugs



**81%**

more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities



**78%**

more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities



**130%**

more than twice as likely to say that they held a leadership position in a club or sports team



**90%**

Respondents who had a mentor said they are now interested in becoming mentors

[The Mentoring Effect](#)

# The Mentoring Gap

**One in three young people  
are growing up without a mentor.**

**This is the mentoring gap in America.**



**1 in 3**



**MENTOR**





# **School Based Mentoring: Where We've Been**



# History of School Based Mentoring

The Odyssey & the  
character Mentor

The School  
Volunteer Movement

School-based  
Mentoring

# Our Former Approach

Individual  
schools

Deficit focused

Programs  
created in silos

Very narrow  
population  
served

Heavily reliant  
on outside  
programmatic  
resources



# School Based Mentoring

- Can be delivered in one-to-one, group or team formats
- Can pair students with adult mentors or engage older students as “near peer” mentors
- Often aim to facilitate academic gains or improvements in school connectedness or attendance, though many also emphasize non-academic goals
- Can be run by school personnel or through a partnership with a community-based service provider in collaboration with school leadership.



# Success Mentors

- In November 2015, the Obama Administration announced two groundbreaking campaigns to address chronic absenteeism in high-need public schools: the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Success Mentors Every Student, Every Day campaign and a multi-million dollar Ad Council campaign to engage families and school communities on solving this nationwide issue.

- The MBK Every Student, Every Day campaign aims to connect over one million students with dedicated Success Mentors in this country's first-ever effort to use an evidence-based and data driven mentor model and student support system to tackle chronic absenteeism. The campaign calls on all schools to take strategic actions to reduce the rates of chronic absenteeism, based on insights and evidence from ten school districts about what works



National Student Attendance, Engagement, and  
Success Center



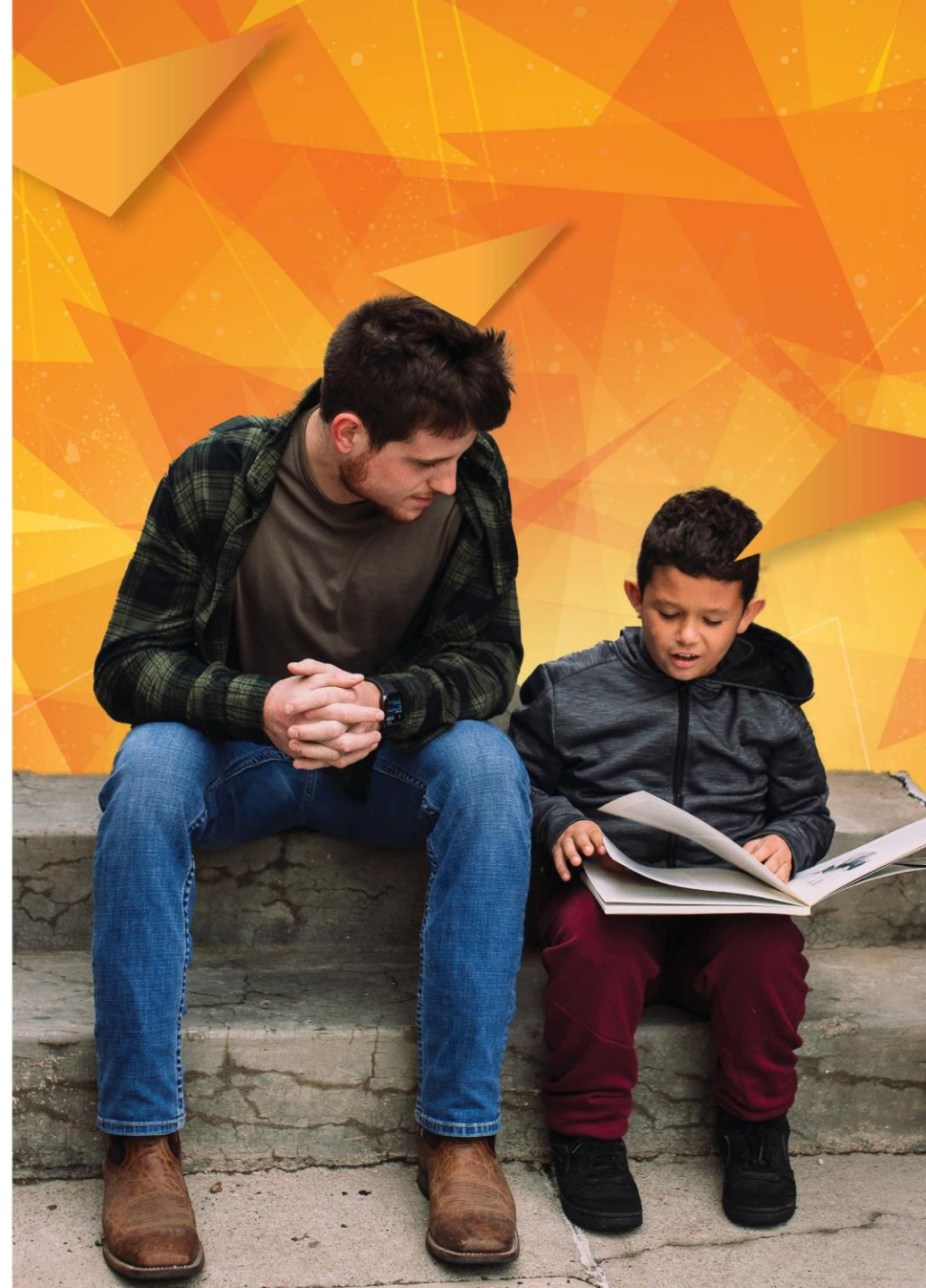


# Model Overview

## Components

The National Success Mentors initiative is a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to providing high-need students with additional supports to enable them to succeed academically and graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary success. The initiative provides:

- Identified students (those who are chronically absent or are at risk for being chronically absent) with consistent and continuous school-based mentoring aimed at uncovering and solving the underlying causes of their absenteeism;
- Case managed referrals for identified students to professional supports as needed; and
- Examples of school-wide efforts and early warning systems aimed at keeping all students on track to post-secondary success.





# What does the research say?



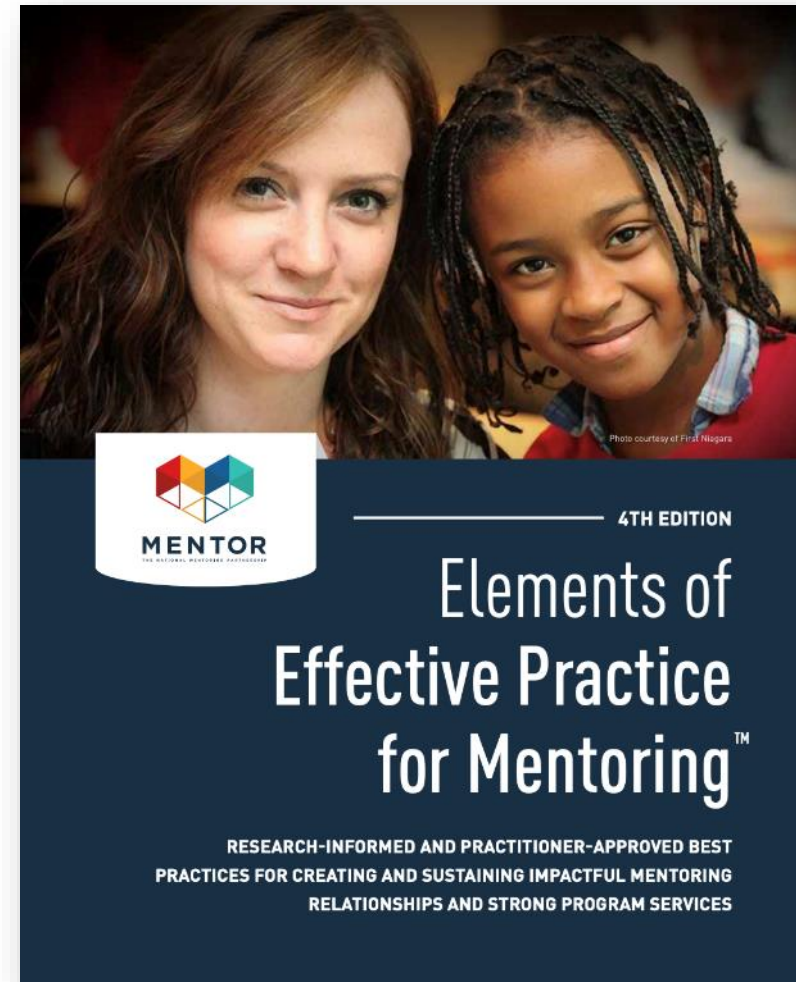
- Regardless of the structure, staffing, and goals of the program, mentoring programs in schools have shown to be a cost-efficient way of increasing the positive relationships students have in their lives, while also having the potential to boost factors that can lead to educational success, such as:
  - connectedness to the school environment and peers
  - improved relationships with teachers and staff
  - improved feelings of academic competence
  - greater access and use of other supports, such as tutoring, credit tracking, counseling, and postsecondary planning.

OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center, 2017

# Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring

What works in mentoring program design?

- Recruitment
- Screening
- Training
- Matching and Initiating
- Monitoring and Support
- Closure



[The EEPM](#)

# Mentor Resources & Guides



## SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA

Episodes of violence and trauma in young people's communities, especially those that arise from a place of systemic inequality, prejudice and racism, impact young people's

## Growth Mindset for Mentors

Developed in collaboration with MENTOR. This toolkit can help mentors understand growth mindset and how to apply growth mindset strategies to many of the challenges that youth and adults face in life.

Number of lessons  
17

Designed for  
Mentors

Time to complete  
60 min



## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE:

Tapping into the Power of Relationships  
and Mentoring

Executive Summary | 2019

Delia Hagan, Bernadette Sánchez,  
Jason Cascarino, Kilian White



## Guide to Mentoring and Young Men of Color

Sponsored by My Brother's Keeper Alliance and  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER  
ALLIANCE



# MENTOR



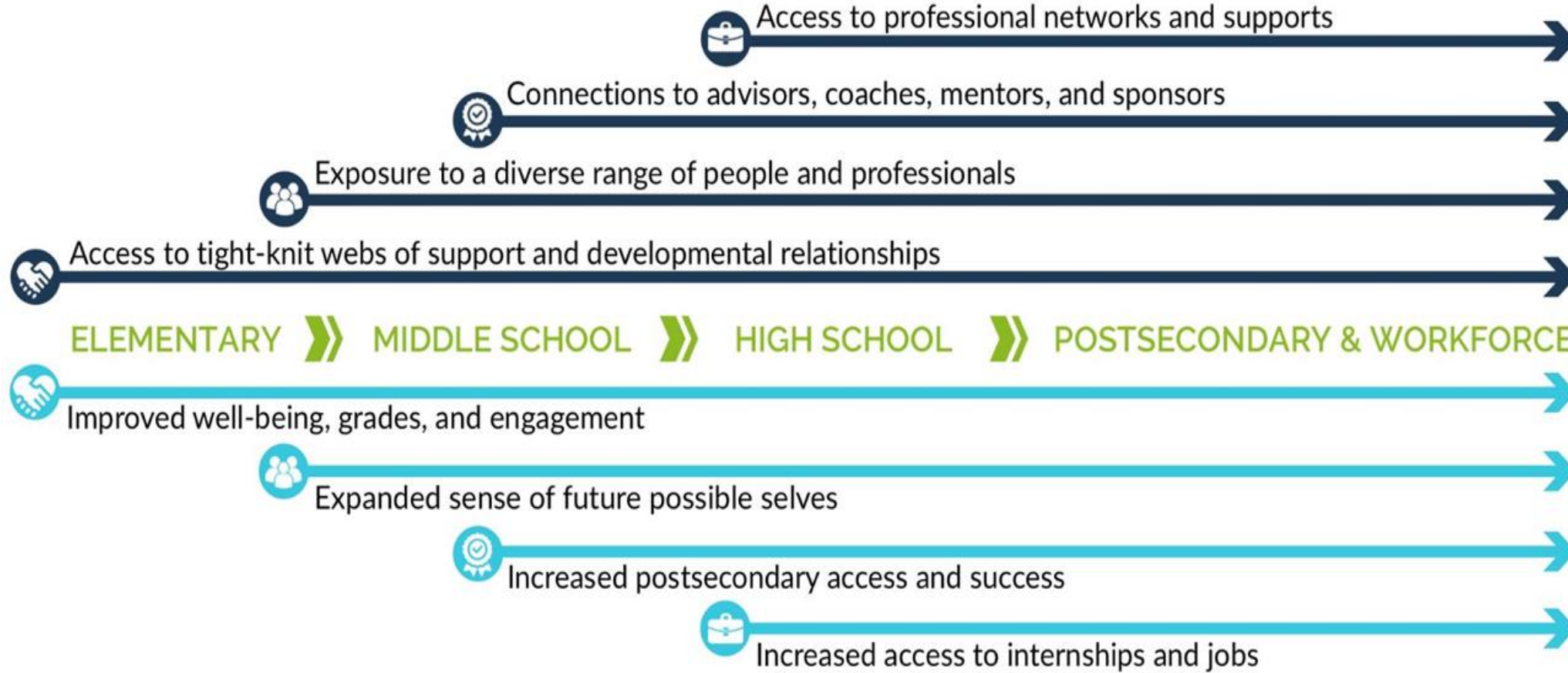


# **Overview of Relationship Centered Schools**



# Edutopia: Power of Relationships in Schools





Students have access to, and ability to maintain and mobilize, relationships

Students demonstrate increased long-term well-being and expand career options



Copyright: The Christensen Institute



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# RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED SCHOOLS

**Data Driven**

**Relationship-Rich**

**Exposure to People, Places, and Environments**

**Experiential Learning**

**Youth Centered**

# SUGGESTED RELATIONSHIP -CENTERED COMPONENTS



# MENTORING MINDSET





# Mentoring Mindset

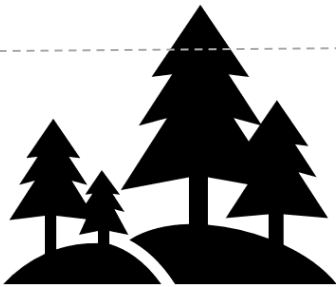
**Intentional: I See You**

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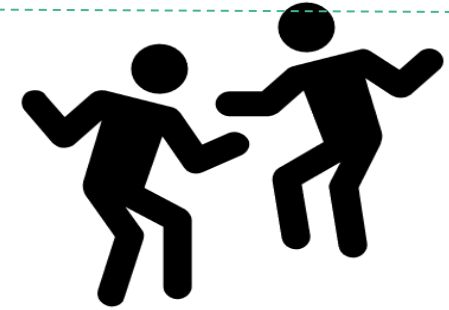
**Developmental: I'm  
Here to Help**

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**Supportive: I Got You**

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**Communal: We're In  
This Together**

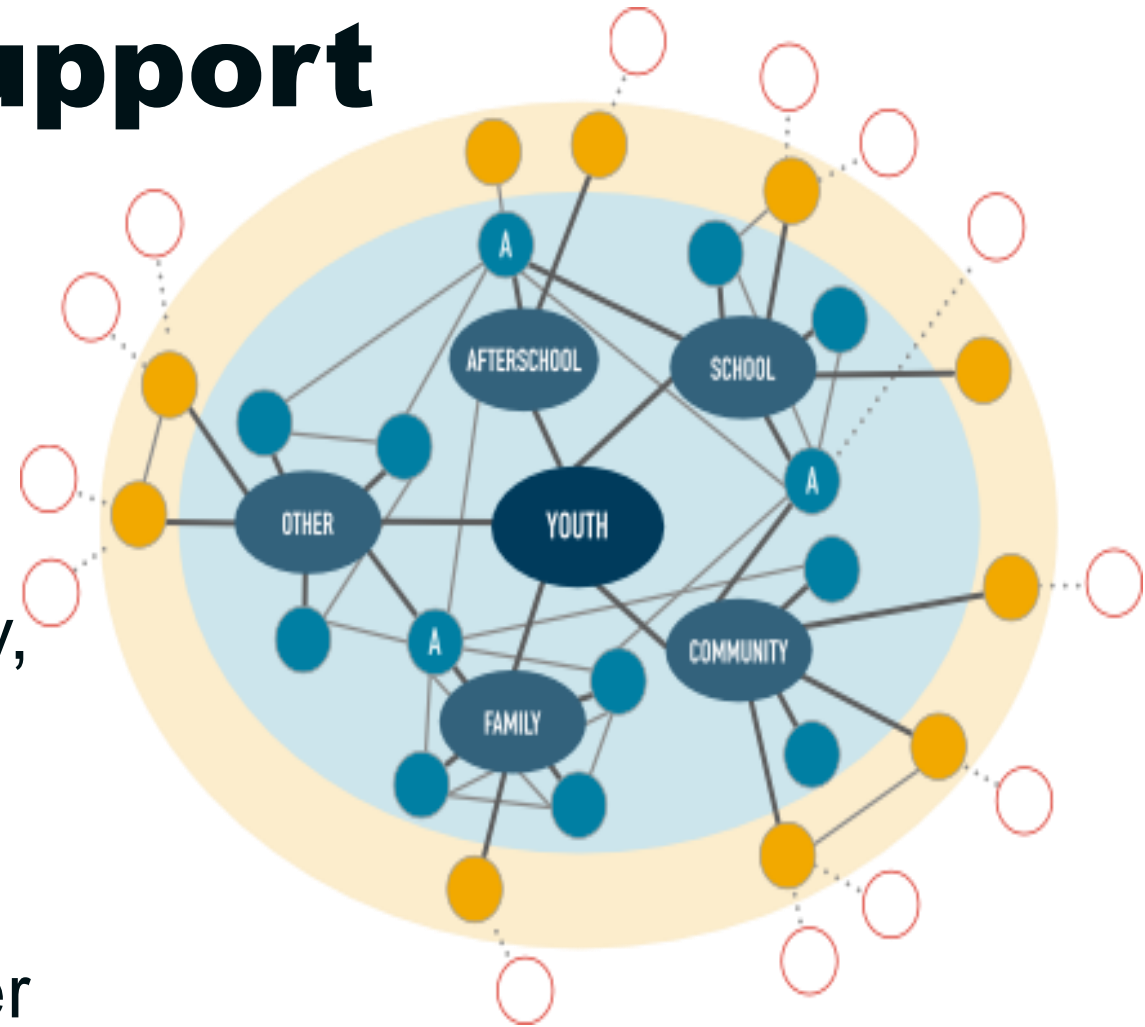
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# Activity: Webs of Support

## Instructions:

1. On your piece of paper, draw a circle and write your name.
2. Think about the communities you are part of & label those – work, family, clubs, spiritual, for example
3. Within those communities, begin to identify those people who you consider your support group.



CERES Institute, Boston University (via America's Promise Alliance)

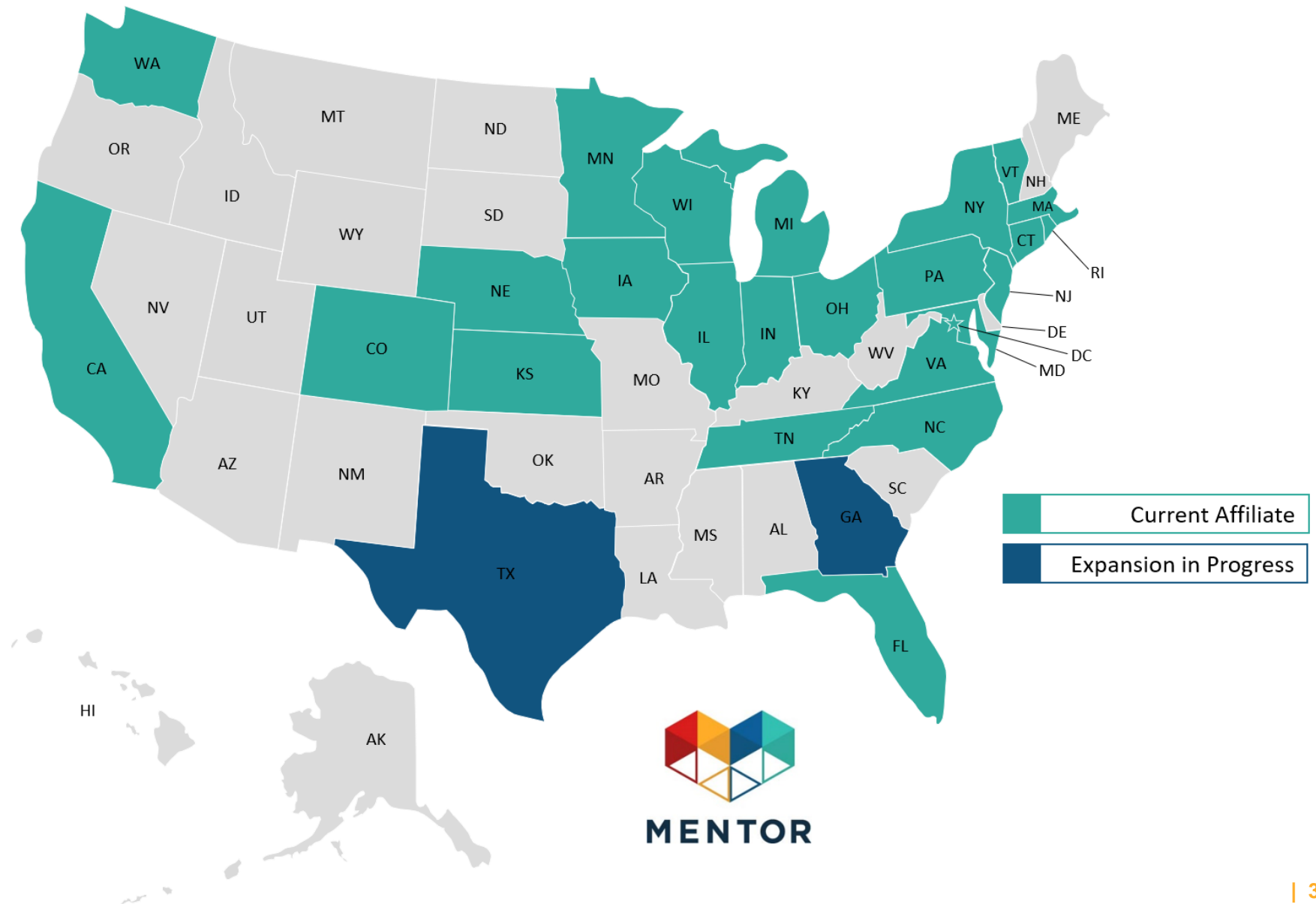


# **Resources + Future Planning**



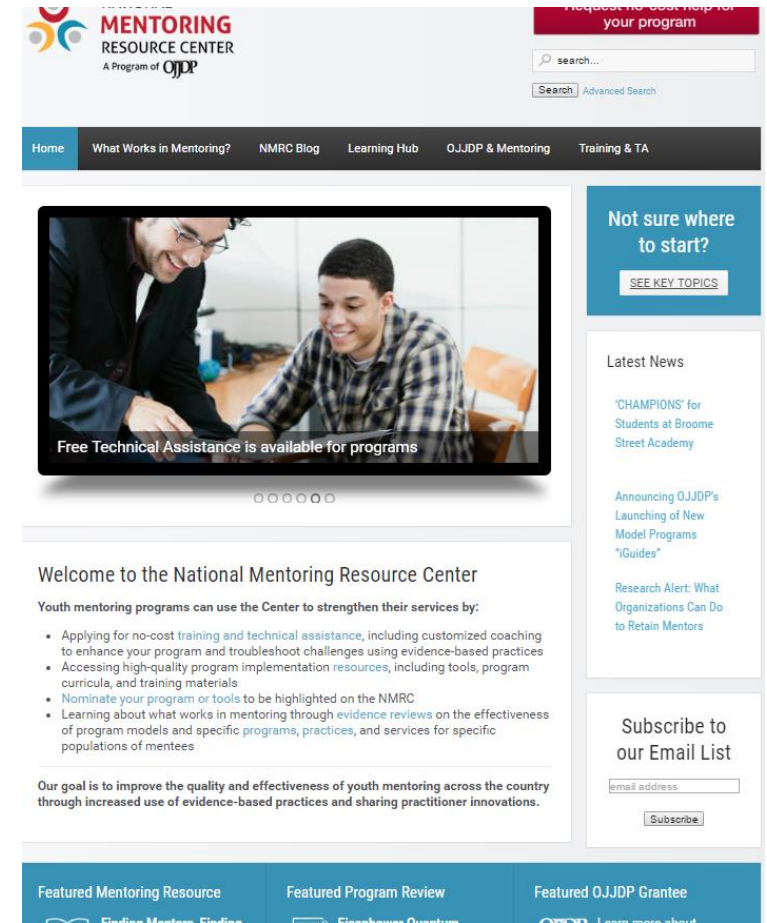


# Connect with MENTOR National or Affiliate



# Start, expand, or improve a program through the OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center (NMRC)

- Visit [www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org)
- Funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the NMRC disseminates information about “What Works” in mentoring through evidence reviews on the effectiveness of program models and specific programs, practices, and services for specific populations of mentees
- Disseminates high-quality program implementation resources, including tools, program curricula, and training materials
- Provides FREE technical assistance to youth mentoring programs to help them more deeply incorporate evidence-based practice into their work.
- Sign up for the monthly e-newsletter [here](#)



# Or find a partner using the Mentoring Connector



## Search for a Local Mentoring Program

Search the Mentoring Connector database by entering your zip code to find a variety of programs in your community.

**The Mentoring Connector is a volunteer recruitment tool for programs. If you are searching to find a mentor, we encourage you to use these results to contact the program outside of this system.**

*By searching the database, you are sharing your information with MENTOR, its Affiliates, and any program you choose to contact through the Mentoring Connector. Your email address will not be sold, shared with third parties or used for any purposes other than to keep you updated on news and opportunities related to mentoring.*

Zip Code

Distance

☐ 5 Miles ☐ 10 Miles ☒ 15 Miles ☐ 25 Miles

Youth Population Served

All

Age of Youth Served

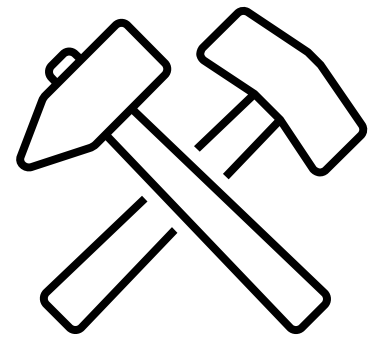
All

Type of Mentoring

All



# Some tools to share



## Relationship-centered Schools:

<https://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/education/>

Relationship Mapping: <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-educators>

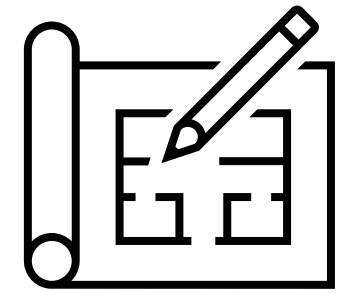
## Webs of Support Framework:

<https://www.americaspromise.org/resource/defining-webs-support-new-framework-advance-understanding-relationships-and-youth>

## Christensen Institute Who You Know Playbook:

<https://whoyouknow.org/playbook/>

# Tools in Development



## Tools:

- Landscape Analysis  
Tools: Inventory, Data, & Reflection Worksheets
- School Readiness  
Assessment Worksheet
- Relationship Mapping Tools

## Currently Piloting Tools with:

- Baltimore, MD (Baltimore City Schools)
- Montgomery County, MD (MCPS)
- Fresno, CA (FUSD)
- Sacramento County, CA (SCOE)
- Newark, NJ (Newark Board of Education)

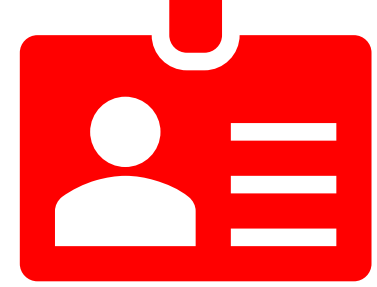
# Rita Pierson: Every Kid Needs a Champion (TED Talk)





# Stay in touch!

Sadiq Ali & Pamela Civins



Web: <https://mentormddc.org/> & [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org)

**Twitter:** @MentorNational // **Facebook:** /MentorNational

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**Twitter:** @mentormddc // **Facebook:** /mentormddc // **Instagram:**  
@mentormddc

*Thank You*



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